



Heating Safety

It's a cold winter night. You decide to use a space heater, or perhaps light a fire in the fireplace, to save on the heating bill. Comfortable from its warmth as bedtime approaches you think, "What harm could it cause to leave it on overnight?"

Think again. While these heating devices may help you feel cozy and warm, they can become extremely dangerous if not used properly. Home heating fires are largely preventable. Our goal is to reduce the number of home-heating fires in our community. But we need your help to do this. We urge you to use extra caution this winter when heating your home. The majority of fire deaths are caused by space heaters or by creosote build-up in the chimney. To help keep you and your family safe this winter, we recommend that you follow these simple guidelines:

- Keep all things that can burn at least 3 feet away from space heaters such as paper, bedding, furniture, etc. Space heaters need space!
- Turn portable heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Plug power cords only into outlets with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord. Inspect for cracked, frayed or broken plugs or loose connections. If it is damaged, replace it before using it.
- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned by a professional.
- Allow ashes to cool before disposing. Dispose of ashes in a metal container.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home. Test your smoke alarms once a month.
- Install and maintain a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area.

With these simple precautions, help us meet our goal of decreasing home-heating fires this winter. If you have any questions, please call Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue at 886-6200.